

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6507

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4319

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS

1. I CALLED ON SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS MENDEZ DOCURRO TODAY AND TOLD HIM THAT THE U. S. WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE MATTERS INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY ROUTES, AND WOULD PREFER A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ITS PROVISIONS COULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION AT ANY TIME.

2. MENDEZ REPLIED THAT THIS NEWS CAME AS A GREAT SURPRISE TO HIM AND POINTED OUT THAT ON MONDAY, JUNE 18, THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT MEXICO CITY. TO POSTPONE THESE TALKS AT THE LAST MINUTE, HE SAID, WOULD CRETE THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO COOPERATE AND MAKE PROGRESS IN SUCH A VITAL FIELD AS AVIATION. HE INDICATED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT THE FACT THAT THE U. S. HAD FELT OBLIGED TO ADJOURN THE WASHINGTON TALKS JUST AT A POINT WHEN IN HIS VIEW AN AGREEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO BOTH SIDES WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING REACHED.

3. HE ADDED THAT ASIDE FROM THE BAD IMPRESSION THAT WOULD BE CREATED IF THE U. S. DELEGATION WERE TO FAIL TO APPEAR ON JUNE 18,
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HE SAW NO REASON WHY A DISCUSSION COULD NOT BE USEFUL. HE BELIEVED THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD STILL BE REACHED WHICH WOULD INDICATE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE AGREEMENT NOW IN EFFECT. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTERS AT ISSUE, SAYING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MINISTRIES AND INTERESTED GROUPS. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE REMARKS THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SEVERELY EMBARRASSED IF THE FORMAL TALKS DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE U. S. DELEGATION COME TO MEXICO ON JUNE 18 AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TO CONTINUE THE TALKS.

MCBRIDE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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